

MINUTES

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES

DECEMBER 7, 2007

The State Advisory Council on Libraries convened in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, on Friday, December 7, 2007.

Present were:

Council

Arne Almquist
Karl Benson
Linda Begley
Garry Collum
Mary Congleton
Jane Winkler Dyche
William Hansen
Kimberly Hartz
Linda Kompanik
Carol Mitchell
J.C. Morgan
Shauna Patton
Karen Porter
Etolia White
Bill Wilson
Janice Wren

KDLA

Charlene Davis
Judith Gibbons
Lori Harlan
Laura Negron
Wayne Onkst
Christie Robinson
Barbara Teague

KLA President

Fannie Cox

Education Cabinet

Charles Harman

LRC

Linda J. Ellis

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Kimberly Hartz, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Special welcome was made to Mr. J.C. Morgan, Director at the Campbell Co. Public Library, who was recently appointed to the council.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

Changes were made to correct the spelling of Council members' names Jane Winkler Dyche and Garry Collum in the minutes from September 7, 2007. Minutes were approved once edits were made.

KLA REPORT

Fannie Cox, who is the newly elected President of the Kentucky Library Association, reported to the Council that the 2007 KLA/KSMA Annual Conference held in Louisville in September was a great success. This year's theme was, "Building and Strengthening Communities: Advocating Our Future." Several sessions centered on how to advocate for the future of our libraries.

The 2008 Conference will be exciting as several new partners join with the Kentucky Library Association and Kentucky School Media Association Annual Conference. In 2008 the Southeastern Library Association and the Association of Research Libraries, along with the National Diversity in Libraries Conference will join together for the KLA/KSMA/SELA/ARL National Library Diversity Conference. This conference will take place in Louisville, on October 1-4, 2008 with the theme "Spectrum of the Future."

LSTA FIVE YEAR PLAN UPDATE

Laura Negron, KDLA's Grants Administrator, distributed copies of the LSTA 2008 Annual Program and the Five Year Plan for 2008-2012. Laura explained to the Council that the Five Year Plan focused on the following four major areas of need for libraries: 1) Access to Information and Resources, 2) Technology and Electronic Linkages, 3) Library Programming and Services, and 4) Continuing Education and Professional Development. KDLA will communicate with our stakeholders through our website, appropriate listservs and regular meetings during the five-year period to provide information and reports on the status of current and upcoming projects, programming, and grants.

Laura also reported that all sub-grants payments have been distributed on schedule and work is progressing on the LSTA Annual Report that is due in Washington by December 30, 2007.

Laura briefly highlighted one of the LSTA programs – the Kentucky Talking Book Library (KTBL), which provides library service to individuals who have a visual or physical disability that prevents them from using standard print materials. This service is available at no cost to the user and is provided across the state with sub-regional locations in Louisville and Northern Kentucky. Beginning in 2008 the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will be migrating from older tape players to new digital talking book players. This service is one of the most popular and special services that KDLA provides.

We send our best wishes to Laura Negron who will be leaving our agency at the end of December to accept a new position at the Kentucky Department of Education working with the federal grant program. KDLA would like to thank Laura for all the hard work she has given to us and the LSTA program.

KDLA UPDATE REPORT

Commissioner Onkst reported that KDLA has been working with the Beshear Transition Team to provide information about our agency. Our new Cabinet Secretary will be Helen W. Mountjoy from Owensboro.

KDLA has also been working with the Council on Postsecondary Education to determine the databases that will be included in the Kentucky Virtual Library.

Public Library Directors and Trustees will be meeting with Legislators in Frankfort on February 13th to discuss the importance of libraries in each local community.

At this time we are waiting for Congress to approve the appropriation bill that provides our federal funding. This bill is scheduled to come up for consideration by the House in the second week of December.

Commissioner Onkst will be meeting next week with Donna Travillian, who works at the Dept. of Education with library media specialists, to discuss what we could do to make sure school districts are aware of the importance of having a full-time school library media specialist in each school and how that could help improve their overall test scores.

KDLA is continuing to move forward with our strategic planning process. We are currently working on developing action plans for 13 objectives that have been identified and then those objectives will be prioritized.

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Commissioner Onkst discussed with the Council a draft proposal for changing the criteria that libraries must meet in order to apply for library construction grant funding. The actual grant process as

described in 725 KAR 2:015 states that criteria for the award be based on need, planning, partnerships, project budget, local match, sustainability, and completeness of application. With the need for library space increasing, the demand for any type of construction funding will be even greater. KDLA must establish a better way of evaluating grant applications to determine how to best allocate the limited amount of funding.

During the last grant cycle KDLA received requests for over \$1.8 million in construction funding assistance while only \$600,000 was available. KDLA was faced with an appeal process, which has never happened in the past.

Commissioner Onkst distributed to the Council a draft of a proposal for prioritizing requests for state construction funding based on each county's need for space to achieve minimum standards as determined by the Kentucky Public Library Standards. Based on the Standards, 88 counties are below the minimum standard requirements and many others have facility deficiencies in some way.

The draft proposal would continue to require the Review Committee to evaluate construction grant applications to ensure the meeting of all criteria, but the priority for funding would be based on square footage needs.

Another change would relate to the required match. In previous grant cycles, no match was required though the current regulations allow a match. In FY2007 some libraries applied for only 20% of the cost of the total project, while others applied for the entire 100% (plus interest). By requiring at least some amount of local match, every local community makes a contribution which allows KDLA to stretch limited resources a bit farther. Commissioner Onkst's proposal is to base the match on a county's ability to pay by using the model of the federal e-rate program, which bases the match on the percentage of children that qualify for free or reduced lunch prices.

KDLA is working through this draft proposal and asked that if any Council members have additional feedback, suggestions, or comments to please contact us with those suggestions. The goal is to make the construction grant process as fair and equitable as possible for all while building as many libraries as possible.

Discussion brought the suggestion that additional factors such as the lack of taxable property in the county might need to be considered for some counties for the match. At least some flexibility regarding the required match might be necessary for some counties.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Onkst asked the Council if they would be interested in having meetings at a different location in Frankfort in order to set up and arrange for teleconferencing equipment so that council members could participate from remote locations. Council members suggested looking into options such as "GoToMeeting.com" which allows meetings to be held over the Internet. Commissioner Onkst advised that we will look into that possibility for a future meeting.
- Terms of several Council members expire at the end of December. We will be working with the Governor's Office to have members reappointed or new appointments made. Current Council members will serve until new appointments are made by the Governor's Office.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council on Libraries will be held on Friday, March 28, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

ADJOURNMENT